

From Chastity Belts to Smart Frocks: The Promise of Rape Deterrent Technology

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FROM CHASTITY BELTS TO SMART FROCKS: THE PROMISE OF RAPE-DETERRENT TECHNOLOGY

ALEX BEVAN, CAROLINE
WILSON-BARNAO &
ROBYN LINCOLN

PAPER PRESENTED TO THE
20TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNET RESEARCHERS,
2-5 OCTOBER 2019,
BRISBANE AUSTRALIA



Schweppes
presents

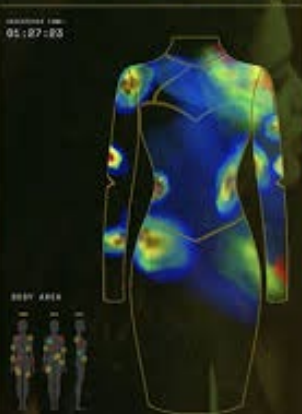
The DRESS for RESPECT



TATIANA ROGAS

A NUMBER OF THERMS MEASURED: 56

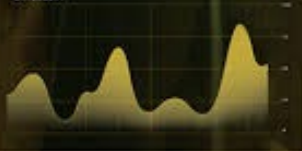
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BODY AREA



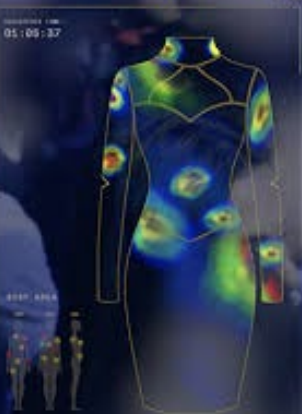
INTENSITY



LUIBA EASTED

A NUMBER OF THERMS MEASURED: 54

MEASUREMENT TIME
05:09:37



BODY AREA



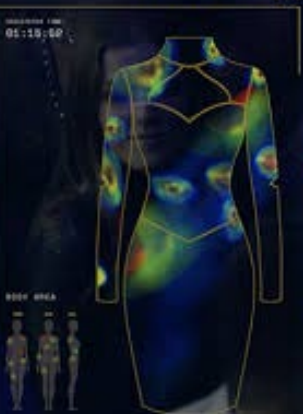
INTENSITY



JULIANA SHULZ

A NUMBER OF THERMS MEASURED: 5

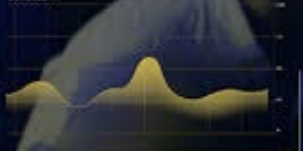
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BODY AREA



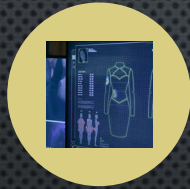
INTENSITY



ONLINE DISCOURSE – OVER 800,00 VIDEO VIEWS



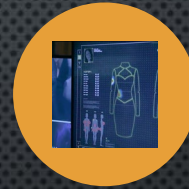
POSITIVE COMMENTS
BY WOMEN THAT IT
REFLECTS THEIR
REALITY



NEGATIVE
COMMENTS BY MEN
THAT IT COMPRISES
ACCIDENTAL
BUMPING IN A
CROWDED CLUB



EXHIBITS BRAND
PROMOTION,
BLATANT
ADVERTISEMENT,
FAKE NEWS, NOT
TRUSTWORTHY



SIGNIFIES THE
PROBLEM BUT NOT A
SOLUTION



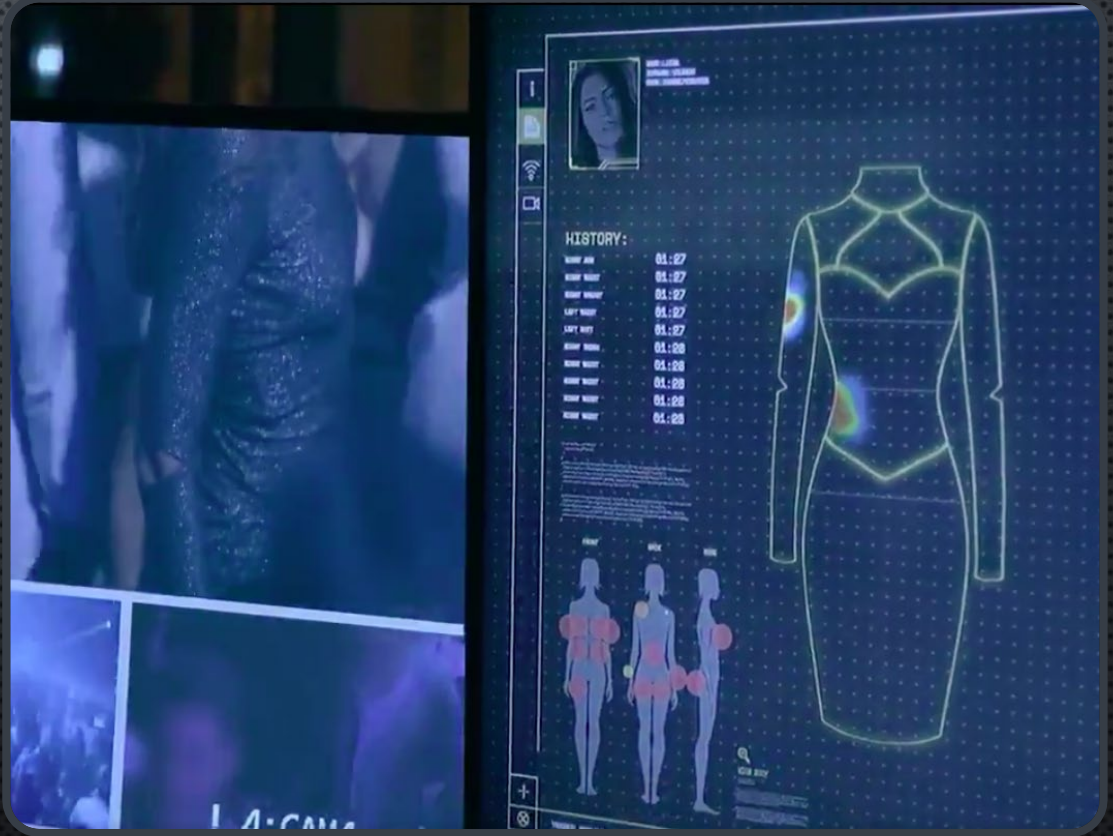
CALLS FOR SENSORS
THAT ALSO DELIVER
ELECTRIC SHOCKS

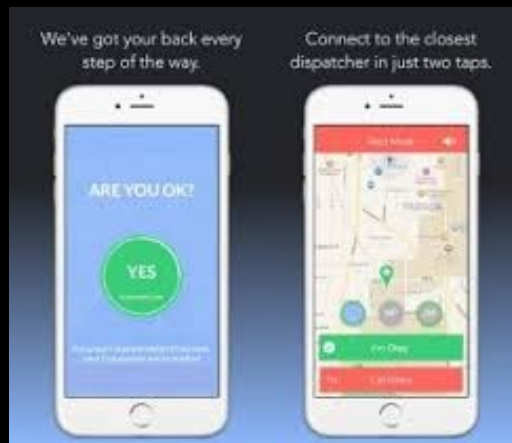


ARRAY OF DIGITAL DEVICES

THE SCHWEPPE'S OGILVY DRESS EXEMPLIFIES
EXPANDING CATEGORIES

- SMART PHONE APPS WITH ALARMS OR ALERTS
- WEARABLE JEWELLERY WITH CONNECTIVITY
- NAIL POLISH OR CHIPS TO MONITOR DRINK SPIKING
- SENSORS IN UNDERWEAR AND OUTER CLOTHING
- INTIMATE INTERNAL DEVICES - RAPE-AXE CONDOM AND TAMPONS

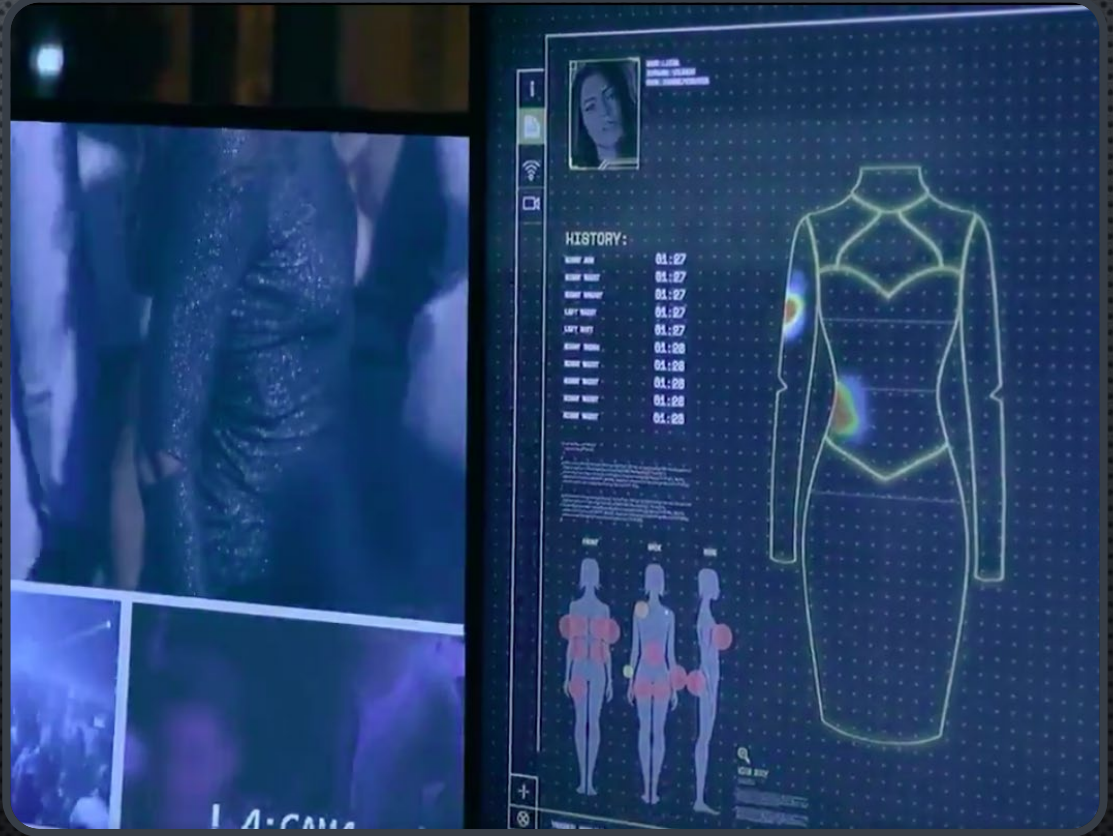






TAXONOMY OF ANTI-RAPE TECHNOLOGY

- CORPOREAL DEVICES (INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL)
- COMMUNICATION DEVICES (MOBILE APPS)
- COMBINED BODY AND COMMUNICATIVE (WHITE & MCMILLAN, 2019)
- OUR DIFFERENTIATION IS TO ENGAGE SPECIFICALLY WITH THE DIGITAL INTERFACES BUT ADOPT A LONGER HISTORICAL TRAJECTORY FOR ANTI-RAPE DEVICES, MYTHS AND DISCOURSE
- OUR CATEGORISATION IN THIS INSTANCE PLACES THE ANALOGUE AND DIGITAL IN CONVERSATION





ARCHITECTURE

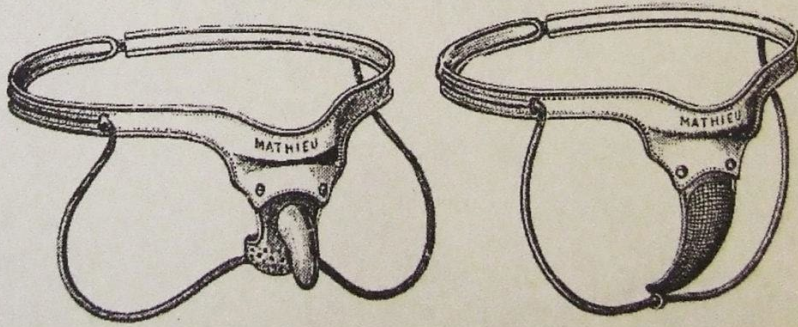
Purdah
Segregated public transit
Windows
Balconies



Murillo's "Two Women at a Window"

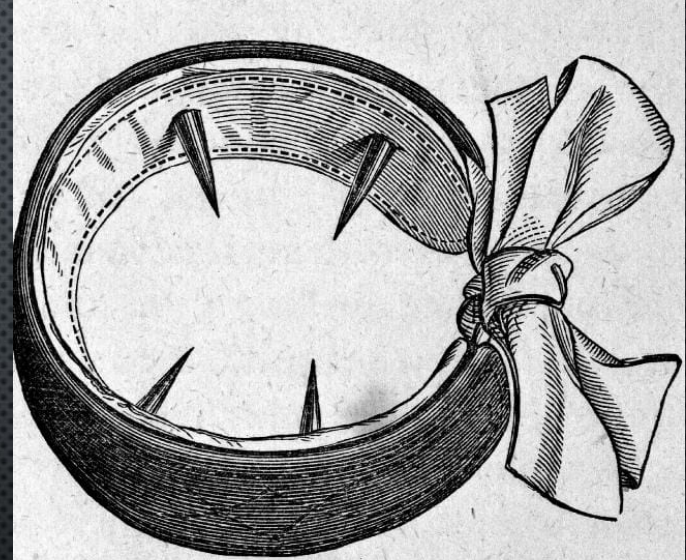


Appareils contre l'onanisme.



TREATMENT

Anti-masturbation Discourses



FOUR-POINTED URETHRAL RING.



Hoop skirts were seen as a rape deterrent as well as an invitation. Damned if you do, damned if you don't.



SAFETY AND SECURITISATION



WHY DO WE ENGAGE IN
VICTIM BLAMING

RESPONSIBILISATION OF VICTIMS



REVERSE REPERCUSSIONS



MISPLACED AND MISGUIDED



CONCLUSIONS

- present a critical analysis of anti-rape devices
- these technologies appear ubiquitous on the internet with smart devices embedded into everyday life
- core claims are that women gain greater control over their bodies by using these devices and encouraged to safeguard themselves as they navigate public space
- devices promise internal and external layers of protection



- part of a larger complex social problem of placing the onus on women to confirm consent, to prevent their own rape extending to their own experiences of domestic violence and murder
- reflects an urban imagination of rape prevention and disrupts trust in devices, platforms, and infrastructure
- misplaced technological solution rather than designing the more elemental project of *educating men*
- optimistically, the online circulation of these devices and their crowdsourcing operate at a symbolic level to allow for encouraging conversation